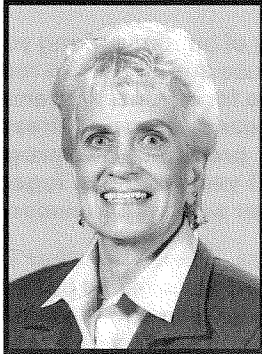


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



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SUMMER SAFETY ENCOURAGED As the warm weather season approaches, it is important to remember to take precautions when enjoying fun in the sun. As the temperature increases, many people will seek relief by finding the nearest lake or swimming pool. By following safe practices in and around the water, you can greatly decrease the risk of accidents for you and your family. Because children are often curious about the water, never leave them unattended around lakes, ponds, swimming pools, or other water sources. When boating, be sure that everyone is wearing a life jacket. Statistics compiled by the U.S. Coast Guard indicate that 80 percent of the people who drown in a boating or water accident would be alive today if they had been wearing a life jacket at the time of the accident. For more summer safety tips, please visit the National Safety Council at www.nsc.org/library/facts.htm or the American Red Cross at www.redcross.org.

DID YOU KNOW? Michigan has nearly 1 million registered boaters who contribute over \$2 billion to the economy each year.

SENATE PASSES LEGISLATION TO PROMOTE SAFE DRIVING Motorists traveling on Michigan freeways could soon see signs reminding them to drive in the right lane and leave the left for passing, under legislation that passed the Michigan Senate. Currently, the Michigan Vehicle Code indicates that the left lane on a freeway is for passing only. Specifically, upon a roadway with two or more lanes for travel in one direction, a motorist must drive in the extreme right-hand lane available for travel, except as otherwise provided, and may drive in any lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the same direction when the lanes are occupied by vehicles moving in substantially continuous lanes of traffic. A driver may drive in the left lane when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction. Despite these provisions, motorists frequently drive in the left lane when they are not passing other vehicles, unaware that they are breaking the law. In an effort to promote safe driving practices, the Senate passed Senate Bill 1127. SB 1127 would allow the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to post signs along limited access highways throughout the state to notify motorists that the left lane is for passing and the right lane is for driving. The legislation is currently awaiting consideration in the House Committee on Transportation.

MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE REDUCES HUNTING AGE Due to a decrease in both the popularity of hunting among young people and the percent of Michiganders hunting, legislation was recently passed in both the House and Senate to reduce the age in which a minor can obtain a hunting license. House Bill 5192 allows the minimum age for a hunting license to be lowered from age 12 to age 10. In addition, hunters 12 or older would be able to hunt deer, bear or elk using firearms. HB 5192 was accompanied by Senate Bill 1105, which establishes a new hunter apprentice program. This program would allow children under the age of 17 to hunt on non-family land if accompanied by a person 21 years or older. Together, these bills hope to increase interest in hunting among young adults while also promoting hunter safety and awareness.

BUY IT, BURN IT, LEAVE IT! The Michigan Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources, as well as other state and federal agencies, are asking all vacationers to help prevent the spread of invasive species and diseases by not transporting firewood this summer in Michigan. Twenty-one of Michigan's counties, including Monroe, Jackson and Washtenaw, have been quarantined due to the emerald ash borer (EAB). The EAB has killed 15 million trees in southeast Michigan since 2002. All hardwood firewood movement from quarantined counties is strictly prohibited. Violators can be fined with penalties ranging from \$1,000 to \$250,000 and up to five years' imprisonment. Travelers are advised to follow the firewood recommendations of BUY IT, BURN IT, LEAVE IT! For more information, please call the EAB toll-free hotline at (866) 325-0023, visit www.michigan.gov/eab or www.emeraldashborer.info.